

In the claims:

Cancel Claims 8 and 9.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended). A bingo card [comprising] consisting essentially of:

a) a plurality of numbered spaces formed as a matrix having seven rows and seven columns;

b) a first [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising five contiguous rows and five contiguous columns whereby a five-by-five bingo game can be played thereon; and

A' c) a second [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising two contiguous rows and two contiguous columns whereby, when combined with the first [indicia] indicium, a seven-by-seven bingo game can be played thereon.

Claim 2 (Amended). A bingo apparatus comprising:

a) a bingo card [having] consisting essentially of:

1) a plurality of numbered spaces formed as a matrix having seven rows and seven columns;

2) a first [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising five contiguous rows and five contiguous columns whereby a five-by-five bingo game can be played thereon; and

3) a second [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising two contiguous rows and two contiguous columns whereby, when combined with the first [indicia] indicium, a seven-by-seven bingo game can be played thereon;

b) a plurality of bingo balls.

A' Claim 4 (Amended). The bingo apparatus of Claim 3 in which a first [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a first [indicia] indicium, a second [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a second [indicia] indicium and a third [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a third [indicia] indicium.

Claim 5 (Amended). The bingo apparatus of Claim 4 in which the first [indicia] indicium is a first color, the second [indicia] indicium is a second color and the third [indicia] indicium is a stripe.

Claim 6 (Amended). The bingo apparatus of Claim 2 in which a first [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a first [indicia] indicium, a second [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a second [indicia] indicium and a third [portion] group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a third [indicia] indicium.

A' cont'd
Claim 7 (Amended). The bingo apparatus of Claim 6 in which the first [indicia] indicium is a first color, the second [indicia] indicium is a second color and the third [indicia] indicium is a stripe.

Claim 10 (Amended). The method of playing a game of bingo comprising:

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a) providing a player with a bingo card [comprising] consisting essentially of:

1) a plurality of numbered spaces formed as a matrix having seven rows and seven columns;

2) a first [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising five contiguous rows and five contiguous columns whereby a five-by-five bingo game can be played thereon; and

3) a second [indicia] indicium designating a portion of the matrix comprising two contiguous rows and two contiguous columns whereby, when combined with the first [indicia] indicium, a seven-by-seven bingo game can be played thereon;

b) providing a plurality of bingo balls each having individual numbers corresponding to the numbered spaces on the bingo card;

c) a player making a first wager to be eligible for the five-by-five bingo game and a second wager to be eligible for the seven-by-seven bingo game,

d) randomly selecting consecutive bingo balls;

e) awarding a first preselected amount when the player

achieves a predetermined winning combination on the five-by-five matrix of the bingo card; and

f) awarding a second preselected amount when the player achieves a predetermined winning combination on the seven-by-seven matrix of the bingo card.

Claim 11 (Amended) ^B The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

a) a player making a third wager to be eligible for a progressive jackpot;

b) designating a portion of the third wager to a separate progressive jackpot pool; [and]

A² c) establishing a predetermined combination as a winning combination for the progressive jackpot pool; and

d) awarding the progressive jackpot pool to the player when he achieves [a] the predetermined winning combination on the bingo card.

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Claim 12 (Amended). The method of playing a game of bingo comprising:

a) providing a player with a bingo card having a plurality of numbered spaces formed as a matrix having five rows and five columns;

b) providing a plurality of bingo balls each having individual numbers corresponding to the numbered spaces on the bingo card;

c) a player making a first wager to be eligible for the five-by-five bingo game,

d) a player making a second wager to be eligible for a progressive jackpot;

e) randomly selecting consecutive bingo balls;

f) awarding a first preselected amount when the player achieves a predetermined winning combination on the five-by-five matrix of the bingo card; [and]

g) designating a portion of the [third] second wager to a separate progressive jackpot pool; [and]

h) establishing a predetermined combination as a winning combination for the progressive jackpot pool; and

i) awarding the progressive jackpot pool to the player when he achieves [a] the predetermined winning combination on the bingo card.

Add the following new claims:

Claim 13 (New). The method of playing a game of bingo comprising:

a) providing a player with a bingo card having a plurality of numbered spaces formed as a matrix having five rows and five columns;

b) providing a plurality of bingo balls each having individual numbers corresponding to the numbered spaces on the bingo card, the plurality of bingo ball further comprising a first group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a first indicium, a second group of the plurality of bingo balls are marked with a second indicium and a third group of the plurality of bingo balls are

marked with a third indicium;

c) a player making a wager to be eligible for the five-by-five bingo game,

e) randomly selecting consecutive bingo balls;

f) if the player achieves a predetermined winning combination on the bingo card when only bingo balls have been selected having the third indicium, awarding the player a first preselected amount;

g) if the player achieves a predetermined winning combination on the bingo card when only bingo balls have been selected having the second or third indicium, awarding the player a second preselected amount; and

h) if the player achieves a predetermined winning combination on the bingo card when bingo balls have been selected having the either the first, second or third indicium, awarding the player a third preselected amount.

Claim ⁴~~14~~ (New). The method of Claim ³~~13~~ wherein the first indicium is a first color, the second indicium is a second color and the third indicium is a stripe.

ARGUMENTS

Extensive amendments have been made to the claims to clarify the scope of the claims, correct any indefiniteness that existed in the claims and to correct certain grammatical errors that appeared in the claims as originally filed. For example, in all occurrences the word "indicia" has been changed to "indicium" to clarify that